

STATE OF NEW JERSEY
DEPARTMENT OF LAW & PUBLIC SAFETY
DIVISION OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS
BOARD OF NURSING

IN THE MATTER OF THE
LICENSE OF

KAREN M. CRAIK, R.N.
License # 26NO10887000

TO PRACTICE NURSING IN THE
STATE OF NEW JERSEY

Administrative Action

**FINAL ORDER
OF DISCIPLINE**

This matter was opened to the New Jersey State Board of Nursing ("the Board") upon receipt of information which the Board has reviewed and on which the following findings of fact and conclusions of law are made:

FINDINGS OF FACT

1. Karen M. Craik ("Respondent") is a Registered Professional Nurse (RN) in the State of New Jersey, and has been a licensee at all times relevant hereto.

2. On or about June 30, 2014, a letter of inquiry was sent on behalf of the Board to Respondent by certified and regular mail at her address of record, asking Respondent for information concerning an arrest on June 9, 2014, and asking for documentation of nursing continuing education completed in the last three years.

3. Respondent partially replied to the inquiry, indicating the reason for her arrest, but she did not provide the Board with a copy of the complaint, nor of the police

reports related to the arrest or the disposition of the arrest, as requested in the June 30, 2014 inquiry.

4. Respondent provided documentation of completion of 24.5 contact hours of nursing continuing education completed during the June 1, 2011 – May 31, 2013 licensing cycle.

5. On her 2013 renewal application, Respondent indicated that she would have timely completed all her required continuing education requirements for the June 1, 2011 – May 31, 2013 licensing cycle by May 31, 2013.

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

Respondent's failure to provide the Board with all the documentation requested relating to her arrest, such as a copy of the complaint and the disposition, constitutes a failure to cooperate with a Board investigation within the intendment of N.J.A.C. 13:45C-1.2 and 1.3, subjecting Respondent to sanctions pursuant to N.J.S.A. 45:1-21(e).

Respondent's failure to document timely completion of 30 contact hours of required continuing education for the June 1, 2011 – May 31, 2013 licensing cycle constitutes a violation of N.J.A.C. 13:37-5.3, subjecting Respondent to sanctions pursuant to N.J.S.A. 45:1-21(e) and (h).

Respondent's indication on her 2013 renewal application that she would have completed required continuing education for the June 1, 2011 – May 31, 2013 licensing cycle by May 31, 2013 constitutes misrepresentation within the intendment of N.J.S.A. 45:1-21(b).

DISCUSSION

Based on the foregoing findings and conclusions, a Provisional Order of

Discipline seeking a suspension, reprimand, and seven hundred and fifty dollars (\$750) in civil penalties was entered on December 24, 2014. Copies were served upon Respondent via regular and certified mail. The Provisional Order was subject to finalization by the Board at 5:00 p.m. on the thirtieth day following entry unless Respondent requested a modification or dismissal of the stated findings of fact and conclusions of law by setting forth in writing any and all reasons why said findings and conclusions should be modified or dismissed and submitting any and all documents or other written evidence supporting Respondent's request for consideration and reasons therefor.

Respondent replied to the Provisional Order of Discipline by providing all the information requested and demonstrating timely completion of ample continuing education. Respondent pronounced that she had originally faxed all the information in response to the Board's original letter of inquiry, but surmised that certain pages had not gone through properly.

The Board reviewed Respondent's submissions and determined that further proceedings were not necessary. The Board was persuaded that the submitted materials merited modification. Inasmuch as Respondent provided the information originally requested and demonstrated timely completion of all required continuing education, the Board determined that the suspension, reprimand, and two hundred and fifty dollar civil penalty (\$250) were no longer warranted. However, the Board determined that Respondent's failure to fully respond to the original inquiry, thereby necessitating the filing of the Provisional Order of Discipline, and review of Respondent's piecemeal replies months later, warrants imposition of a civil penalty.

The Board found her response mitigating and therefore determined that the amount of the civil penalty should be reduced to two hundred and fifty dollars (\$250) based upon Respondent's initial response to the original letter of inquiry and ongoing responses to the Provisional Order.

ACCORDINGLY, IT IS on this 7th day of July, 2015

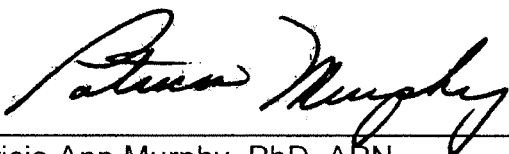
ORDERED that:

1. A civil penalty in the amount of two hundred and fifty dollars (\$250) is hereby imposed for the violation of N.J.A.C. 13:45C-1.2 and 1.3. Payment shall be made by certified check, bank cashier check, or money order payable to "State of New Jersey," or by wire transfer, direct deposit, or credit card payment delivered or mailed to State Board of Nursing, Attention: Leslie Burgos, P.O. Box 45010, Newark, New Jersey 07101. Any other form of payment will be rejected and will be returned to the party making the payment. Payment shall be made no later than twenty-one (21) days after the date of filing of this Final Order of Discipline. In the event Respondent fails to make a timely payment, a certificate of debt shall be filed in accordance with N.J.S.A. 45:1-24 and the Board may bring such other proceedings as authorized by law.

2. The Board reserves the right to initiate disciplinary proceedings based upon the information ultimately provided by Respondent or upon any new information received.

NEW JERSEY STATE BOARD OF NURSING

By:



Patricia Ann Murphy, PhD, APN
Board President